

Having described the invention, the following is claimed:

1. Apparatus comprising:

5 a modular headliner assembly for a vehicle having a side structure and a roof, said headliner assembly comprising:

a headliner;

10 an inflatable vehicle occupant protection device inflatable away from the vehicle roof into a position between the side structure of the vehicle and the vehicle occupant;

a fill tube having a portion located in said inflatable vehicle occupant protection device;

15 a support device having a portion adapted to clamp around a portion of said fill tube to connect said fill tube and said inflatable vehicle occupant protection device to said support device; and

20 a grab handle having a portion extendable through said headliner and into said support device, said grab handle being adapted to releasably interconnect with said support device to connect said grab handle and said support device to said headliner;

25 a first connector for connecting said support device to the vehicle to initially connect said modular headliner assembly to the vehicle; and

a second connector extendable through said support device and said grab handle to fixedly connect said modular headliner assembly to the vehicle.

5           2.   Apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said first connector comprises a push-in connector and said second connector comprises a threaded fastener.

10           3.   Apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein said push-in connector is formed together with said support device as a single piece of molded plastic.

15           4.   Apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said portion of said grab handle comprises an anchor portion insertable into a fastener receiving portion of said support device, said anchor portion including at least one latch portion that engages said support device to connect said grab handle to said support device.

20           5.   Apparatus as defined in claim 4, wherein said latch portion of said anchor portion extends around a dentation extending from a surface of said fastener receiving portion, said latch portion including a surface that engages said dentation to connect said grab handle to  
25   said support device.

6. Apparatus as defined in claim 4, wherein said grab handle has a first end and an opposite second end, said anchor portions extending from said first and second ends of said grab handle in a first direction, parallel to each other.

7. Apparatus as defined in claim 6, wherein said anchor portion extending from said first end of said grab handle is insertable into a first support device and said anchor portion extending from said second end of said grab handle is insertable into a second support device.

8. Apparatus as defined in claim 1, wherein said inflatable vehicle occupant protection device and said fill tube, when connected to the vehicle, extend along the intersection of the side structure of the vehicle and the vehicle roof.

9. Apparatus as defined in claim 1, further comprising an inflation fluid source that provides inflation fluid for inflating said inflatable vehicle occupant protection device.

10. Apparatus as defined in claim 9, wherein said inflatable vehicle occupant protection device is an inflatable curtain having a stored position extending along the side structure adjacent a roof of the vehicle, said inflatable curtain being inflated away from the vehicle roof into said position between the side structure of the vehicle and a vehicle occupant.

11. Apparatus as defined in claim 10, wherein said inflation fluid source is in fluid communication with said fill tube, said inflation fluid source, when actuated, providing inflation fluid to said fill tube, said fill tube directing said inflation fluid into said inflatable curtain to inflate said inflatable curtain.

12. Apparatus as defined in claim 10, wherein said inflatable curtain, when inflated, extends along the side structure of the vehicle between an A pillar and a C pillar of the vehicle.

13. Apparatus as defined in claim 10, wherein said inflatable curtain, when inflated, overlies at least a portion of an A pillar, a B pillar and a C pillar of the vehicle.

14. Apparatus as defined in claim 10, further comprising a sensor for sensing a vehicle condition for which deployment of said inflatable curtain is desired, said sensor actuating said inflation fluid source to provide inflation fluid to inflate said inflatable curtain.

15. Apparatus as defined in claim 10, wherein said inflation fluid source comprises an inflator that is actuatable to inflate said inflatable curtain.

16. An apparatus for helping to protect an occupant of a vehicle having a side structure and a roof, said apparatus comprising:

5                   a headliner;

                  an inflatable vehicle occupant protection device inflatable away from the vehicle roof into a position between the side structure of the vehicle and the vehicle occupant;

10                   a fill tube having a portion located in said inflatable vehicle occupant protection device;

                  a support device having a portion that clamps around a portion of said fill tube;

                  a grab handle having a portion adapted to extend  
15                   through said headliner and interconnect with said support

device to connect said headliner, said grab handle, and  
said support device with each other; and

5 a fastener extendable through said grab handle  
and said support device to connect said grab handle, said  
support device, said headliner, said fill tube, and said  
inflatable vehicle occupant protection device to the  
vehicle.

10 17. A headliner assembly for a vehicle, said  
headliner assembly comprising:

a headliner;

an inflatable side curtain;

a fill tube for delivering inflation fluid to  
said side curtain;

15 a support device having a portion adapted to  
clamp around a portion of said fill tube to connect said  
fill tube and said side curtain to said support device;  
and

20 a grab handle having a portion extendable  
through said headliner and into said support device, said  
grab handle being adapted to releasably interconnect with  
said support device to connect said grab handle and said  
support device to said headliner;

25 a first connector for connecting said support  
device to the vehicle to initially connect said support

device, said grab handle, said headliner, said fill tube,  
and said side curtain to the vehicle; and

a second connector extendable through said  
support device and said grab handle to fixedly connect  
5 said support device, said grab handle, said headliner,  
said fill tube and said side curtain to the vehicle.

18. Apparatus for a vehicle, said apparatus  
comprising:

10 a headliner, an inflatable side curtain, and a  
grab handle assembled together as a module;

a push-in connector for initially connecting  
said module to the vehicle; and

a threaded connector extendable through said  
15 grab handle to fixedly connect said module to the vehicle,  
said threaded connector and said grab handle being  
removable to release said headliner from the vehicle, said  
push-in connector maintaining said side curtain connected  
to the vehicle.